Authorities were immediately contacted and the Bomb Disposal Squad of the Army was summoned. The bomb was defused and the explosive material was seized by the State Police Authorities. The entire building was thoroughly searched for any other suspicious material. The State Police Authorities have been requested to increase police patrol in the area.

(c) No Sir.

Ore exploration by Private Companies

1042. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MI NES be pleased to state;

(a) whether there is a proposal to al low private companies fo go into ore ex-plloration; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR), (a) and (b) Subject to the provisions of Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and the rules framed thereunder any holder of a prospecting license or Mining Lease whether in private or public sector can undertake exploration for minerals included in the prospecting license or Mining lease in the area held under the license/lease.

Treating non-practicuifi tBiowartce as a part of pay for allotment of accommodation

1043. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVE LOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether non-practicing allowance . (NPA) is to be treated as part of the basic pay for all service matters as per F.R. 9 including eligibility of Government accommodation from the general pool as was done prior to 1st January, 1986 and that the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare had issued a circular No. 27023/1/87/CHSV dated 27th January, 1988 to this effect;

(b) whether Government are aware that the Directorate of Estates is not considering NPA as pay for allotment of general pool accommodation; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c) The question of inclusion of Non-Practicing Allowance given to doctors for the purposes of determination of eligibility for general pool residential accommodation is under consideration of the Government.

Separate Agency to deal with Provident Fund Defaulters

1044. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR; Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to set up a separate agency to deal with Provident Fund defaulters in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard: and

(c) what are the persons who would be associated with this agency?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY): (a) Yes, Sir. The EPF and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 has been recently amended to provide for setting up a separate machinery of the EPF Organisation for recovery of provident fund dues.

(b) The details are yet to be finalised.

(c) Does not arise.

Telecast of TV Programmes for Children

1045. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR; Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the recent survey conducted by the National Centre for Media Studies more

than 90 per cent children are found to be TV addict;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to .show more purposeful programmes for the children in the near future; and

(c) whether Government propose to telecast progi'ammes[serials on the forma tive days of our great leaders and free dom fighters during the Nehru Centena ry year and if not. the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) Reports to this effect appearing in the press have come to the notice of the Government.

(b) Doordarshan are already telecast ing purposeful programmes for children to inculcate in them positive values besides being entertaining.

(c) Yes, Sir. A number of program mer are planned by Doordarshan on emi nent leaders like Pt. Govind Vallabh Pant Maulana Azad and Pt, "Jawaharlal Nehru in observance of their centenaries. These programmes would provide, both, children and adults, an insight into the great cultural and historical heritage of our country besides the sacrifices made by these great leaders.

Visit of Central Team to Flood Affected Areas of West Bengal

1046. SHRI CHITTA BASU; Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central team recently visited the flood affected areas of West Bengal;

(b) whether the team has since submitted its report; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV); (a) to (c) A Central Team visited West Bengal between 4th and 7th October, 1988 to assess the flood situation. Based on the report of the Central Team and recommendations of the High Level Committee on Relief thereon, a ceiling of expenditure of Rs. 23.56 crores has been approved for flood relief in West Bengal.

Non-payment of Transportation Charges to Sugarcane Growers in Maharashtra

1047. SHRI CHITTA BASU; Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that sugrcane growers in Maharashtra are being deprived of about Rs. 135.60 per ton, due to non-payment of transport charges and enforcing various deductions like non-refundable deposits by the cooperative sector,

(b) whether Government have gone into these grievances of the cultivators; and

(c) if so, the details of action taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) For the year 1988-89 the Central Government has fixed the statutory minimum price of sugarcane payable by sugar factories at Rs, 19 per quintal linked to a recovery of 8.5 per cent. This is the price recommended by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices. The price is for supply of sugarcane at factory gate/purchase centre. No factory can pay the price less than that notified by the Central Government. Further no complaints of the nature mentioned in the question have been received by the Central Government as they would come within the purview of the State Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of reply to (a) above.